DUBAI FUTURE FINANCE WEEK

ISLAMIC SUSTAINABLE FINANCE MASTERCLASS 2026

1-3 November 2026 | Heriot-Watt University, Dubai

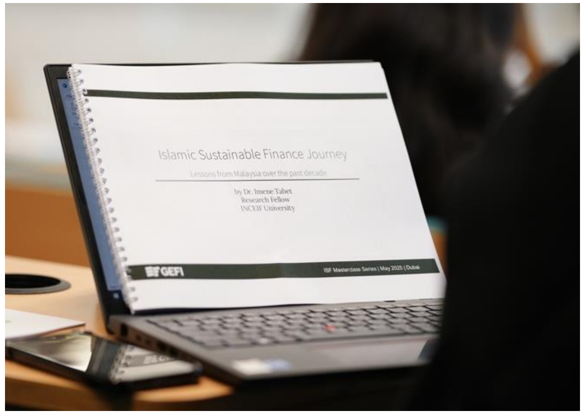
PART OF

ISFI

THE ISLAMIC SUSTAINABLE FINANCE INITIATIVE

ABOUT THE MASTERCLASS

A **fast-tracked, practitioner-led** capacity building programme designed to empower Islamic and sustainable finance stakeholders to integrate conventional sustainable finance frameworks within a Shariah-compliant context.



Following the success of the 2025 edition, the Masterclass returns in November 2026 with a refined, and **enhanced focus on banking**. The Masterclass is aligned with the Dubai Finance Future Week.

Moving beyond traditional training, the programme combines expert-led sessions, practical discussions and peer exchange to create a collaborative space for exploring strategic opportunities and building capacity in Islamic sustainable finance.

Part of the Islamic Sustainable Finance Initiative, it supports transformative pledges in the MENAT region, including the UAE Central Bank's target to nearly triple Islamic finance by 2035, Islamic sustainable finance guiding principle 9, the UAE Banks Federation’s AED 1 trillion commitment to sustainable finance by 2030 and DIFC’s goal to train one million sustainability leaders.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Our programme is designed and focused on **professionals working across Islamic finance, sustainable finance** and related sectors who want to strengthen their understanding of the rapidly evolving **sustainable finance landscape and explore its practical application within an Islamic finance context.**

This programme is suitable for:

- Conventional and Islamic finance practitioners with a focus on banking
- Professional services (lawyers, accountants and consultants)
- Shari'ah Institutions (scholars and professionals)
- Regulators
- Research agencies and academic institutions
- Charities, third sector and social enterprises

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Date:	1, 2 & 3 November
Time:	Half-day (1st Nov): 10:00 – 12:30 Full-day: 10:00 – 16:30
Venue:	Heriot-Watt University Knowledge Village Dubai

Online Preliminary Sessions

Outlining the impact of global trends on the financial services sector and mapping the sustainable finance ecosystem. This is provided as a pre-read.

2.5 days in person Sessions

Day 1: Sunday 1 Nov (half day): Islamic Finance 101.
Day 2: Monday 2 Nov: Sustainable Banking - Foundations.
Day 3: Tuesday 3 Nov: Sustainable Banking - Compliance.

Interactive Discussions

Interactive discussion on emerging and challenging ISF topics, supporting strategic industry thinking and opportunities for collaboration beyond the Masterclass.

Ample Networking opportunities

Networking opportunities throughout the day, complemented by a Masterclass dinner at a landmark Dubai venue, offering an informal setting to connect with trainers and fellow participants.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

LO1: Contextual Knowledge and Harmonised Understanding

Develop a clear contextual understanding of sustainability* and a harmonised understanding of Islamic sustainable finance.

LO2: Practical insights and Application Tools

Develop familiarity with specific regulations, frameworks, tools and sustainable finance products to assist in effective implementation within your professional context.

LO3: Solid Grounding in Islamic Sustainable Finance

Build a solid grounding in Islamic sustainable finance, including its correlation with conventional sustainable finance, its application within Shariah principles, and its distinctive nuances.

*By popular demand, 2026 Masterclass edition is refined to focus on banking

DAY 1: ISLAMIC FINANCE 101

Half-day: 10:00 – 12:30

*A half day session, based on prior year feedback, designed exclusively for those **with limited to no prior knowledge** of Islamic finance. Those with knowledge of Islamic finance can join from Day 2 onwards.*

Session	Topics
Introduction to Islamic Finance	• Key principles and contractual tools
Making financial products using Islamic contracts and market dynamics	• How Islamic contracts are used to make Home Purchase Plans and other asset financing products • Market demand dynamics
Shariah Governance	• Introduction to shariah governance approaches in Islamic finance

Anchor Trainer

Dr. Omar Shaikh

Managing Director, GEFI

Chartered Accountant leading global advocacy in sustainable and Islamic finance, advising governments and regulators.

Spearheaded ecosystem-building initiatives in Islamic Sustainable Finance. Former Head of Islamic Finance for EY London

DAY 2: SUSTAINABLE BANKING IN PRACTICE

Session	Topics
Sustainable Banking Frameworks	• Introducing sustainable banking • Overview of the current state • Key frameworks including PRB & NZBA
Developing Innovative Sustainable Financial Products	• Key considerations in designing and developing sustainability linked financial products • Understanding client mindset
Sustainable Banking Practices	• Key operational considerations in integrating ESG factors • Operational implementation • Corporate governance – risk and compliance
Framing Islamic Sustainable Finance	• Global sustainability challenges and opportunities in Islamic Finance • Islamic sustainable finance global initiatives and regulations

Anchor Trainer

Rafe Haneef

Group CEO, MBSB Berhad

Previously the CEO of Group Transaction Banking at CIMB from 2019 to June 2023.

Over the past 25 years, he has held various leadership roles at HSBC Middle East, ABN Amro UAE, Fajr Capital UAE and CitiGroup Malaysia.

DAY 3 : SUSTAINABLE BANKING – REGULATION & COMPLIANCE

Session	Topics
Sustainable Banking Regulations and Compliance	• Core objectives of regulations and compliance • Developing sustainability & climate strategies for banks (including transition plans and client/product approach) • Establishing an emissions baseline, disclosing reduction targets and ensuring transparent progress • Integrating climate risk into financial decision making, portfolio diagnostics, and credit risk pipelines
Sustainable Banking in the UAE	• UAE Central Bank regulations: understanding requirements and expectations • Current state of the local market • Regional nuances and market dynamics
Regulatory Frameworks for Islamic Sustainable Finance (ISF)	• UAE regulations for ISF • Global approaches to ISF

Anchor Trainer

Tara Schmidt
Senior Advisor, GEFI

Sustainable Banking technical expert and practitioner, advising financial institutions, corporates, governments and regulators.

Strategic leader in the development of international frameworks in climate-related financial risk & transition finance.

Former Managing Director of Sustainability & Climate Strategy at Lloyds Banking Group & Global Consulting Partner at ERM.

2025 PARTICIPANTS TESTIMONIALS

“It was more than just a training — it felt like a genuine exchange of ideas, perspectives, and practical tools to support a more ethical and forward-looking financial system.”

INSIGHTFUL . PRACTICAL

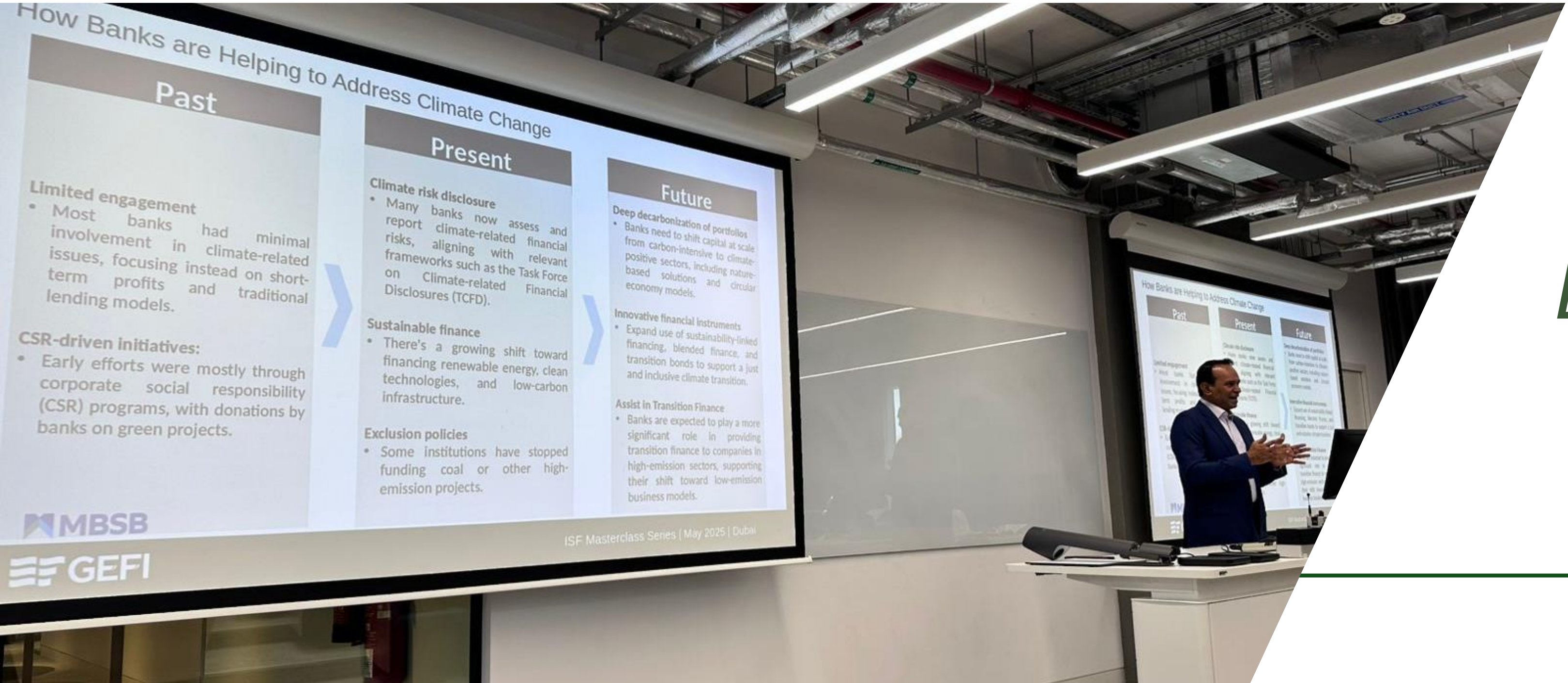
"I learned a great deal — from innovative finance models to evolving ESG strategies — and left with valuable insights to reflect on and apply in practice.”

DEEPLY INSPIRING

"Being in an environment with leaders in their fields - from Islamic scholars and NGO think tanks to expert sustainability practitioners - was both thought-provoking and deeply inspiring.“

ENRICHING . EMPOWERING

" It was particularly empowering to engage in a space that bridged my identity as a Muslim with my professional interests in sustainability and sustainable finance - reaffirming the immense potential that faith-based values can have play in advancing ethical and sustainable finance for meaningful and transformative impact!"



Building Capacity
Unlocking Capital

Registration Fees: $750*

REGISTERATION

Click here to register

Discount rates available for:

- ✓ Non-profit / academic organizations
- ✓ Group discounts on request
- ✓ Partner organizations
- ✓ Shariah scholars

For discount rates or any other inquiry:

Email: dalia@globalethicalfinance.org

For further details:

Visit :Islamic Sustainable Finance Initiative

**Cancellations made before 1st October 2026, are eligible for a 50% refund. No refunds will be issued for cancellations after 1st October 2026.*

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

GEFI has been active in sustainable finance for over a decade as we engage with our established, global network through events, sharing thought-leadership, providing technical insights, capacity building and showcasing SDG aligned initiatives and products.

Our commitment to the GCC region has empowered us to forge and strengthen strategic partnerships that drive sustainable growth and innovation.

#Challenge
#Catalyse
#Implement